

59 in 2001 · 53 in 2002
10% Decrease

Narcotics Violations

Narcotics includes all incidents in which the police made an arrest, complaint, or warrant for the possession or distribution of illegal drugs. Narcotics statistics do not include all instances of narcotics use or distribution; they only reflect cases known to the police.

The first half of 2002 registered at least 53 separate incidents involving the use, sale, or possession of illegal drugs. Fifty of these incidents resulted in the arrest of 63 individuals, aged 16 to 49. Thirty-three percent of these arrestees were from Cambridge, whereas others were primarily from areas just outside the city (i.e., Medford, Everett, and varied parts of Boston.) Of the total 63 persons arrested, a mere 8% were female.

Since 1999, the number of drug incidents has dropped dramatically (46%), due in part to the extensive efforts put forth by the Special Investigations Unit. In the wake of 1999's major drug crackdown, the S.I.U. continued to effect a large percent of the city's narcotics arrests.

As clearly indicated by the figures above, drug incidents were clustered about the city's mid-section over the past

Drug Tip Hotline

*The Special Investigations Unit employs an anonymous Drug Tip Hotline to gain intelligence information from the community. The Unit can be reached by calling **617-349-3359**. Generally, you will be greeted by a taped message instructing you to leave very detailed information. **You do not have to provide any personal information and all information is held in***

of a hypodermic needle.

Narcotics Violations: Geographic Breakdown

Neighborhood	2 nd Q. 2000	2 nd Q. 2001	2 nd Q. 2002
East Cambridge	5	3	6
MIT	3	2	1
Inman/Harrington	3	9	1
Area 4	14	8	9
Cambridgeport	16	5	8
Mid-Cambridge	9	9	5
Riverside	6	4	11
Agassiz	0	0	1
Peabody	3	6	0
West Cambridge	7	3	2
North Cambridge	5	8	5
Cambridge Highlands	1	2	1
Strawberry Hill	1	0	3

six months, in accordance with the numbers over the past two years. This year so far, the mid-section of Cambridge has hosted 27 drug related incidents, accounting for 51% of the total 53 incidents. The Riverside neighborhood saw the most of any area, yielding a 175% increase from last year.

As usual, marijuana was the favored drug among arrestees, with 24 out of the 53 arrests, accounting for 45% of those who were arrested for possession of the drug (with or without intent to distribute). About 25% of total arrests were attributed to the possession of cocaine/crack, 19% of the arrests were due to the possession of heroin, 6% for the illegal possession of prescription drugs, and an additional 2% for possession

189 in 2001 · 206 in 2002
9% increase

Fraud and Forgery

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting System does not include fraud, false pretenses, forgery, embezzlement, and confidence games among larceny. Yet in many cases, fraud is a much more serious crime than theft. Victims of check forgery and "con" games stand to lose thousands of dollars. Often added to this loss is the personal humiliation that accompanies being "duped" by a "con man." The confidence game crook, a particularly crafty breed of criminal who has no qualms with deceiving his victims face-to-face, expects (often correctly) that his victim's embarrassment will deter him or her from reporting the crime to the police.

In the first half of 2002, there were 206 incidents of fraud and forgery reported in Cambridge, compared to 189 in the first half of 2001. This 9% increase is due mostly to the increase in incidents of identity theft. The continued growth of the Internet and e-commerce has made it easier for thieves to steal peoples' identities. Fraud and forgery incidents are broken down as follows:

- **Counterfeiting:** No incidents of counterfeiting were reported during the first half of 2002.

Crime	First Half 2001	First Half 2002
Counterfeiting	3	0
Forgery/Uttering	147	137
Application	(2)	(1)
Bad Check	(21)	(11)
Forged Check	(20)	(27)
ATM/Credit Card	(66)	(96)
Other	(0)	(2)
Embezzlement	9	2
Con Games	15	12
Big Carrot	(4)	(2)
Utility Impostor	(1)	(0)
Pigeon Drop	(0)	(3)
Charity	(1)	(3)
Psychic	(0)	(0)
Miscellaneous	(5)	(4)
Identity Theft	15	55

- **Application:** There was one incident reported of a forged application. The incident involved a domestic situation in which a child forged his father's signature on a student loan application.

- **Bad Check:** The writing of checks on insufficient funds or closed accounts. The Cambridge Police took 11 reports for this crime in the first six months of 2002, though most "bounced" checks are not reported as criminal incidents, particularly if it seems to be an innocent mistake.

- **Forged Check:** 27 crimes involved the use of a lost or stolen check, with the offender forging the victim's signature.

- **ATM/Credit Card Fraud:** 96 incidents of the use of a lost or stolen credit or ATM card were reported in 2002, compared to 66 in 2001. This crime has become more popular with the proliferation of "check cards." The Galleria is a hot spot for this crime.

- **Embezzlement:** A situation in which an employee takes advantage of his position for his own financial gain, re-diverting company funds or property to himself. Only 2 were reported in the first half of 2002, compared to 9 incidents reported during 2001. This crime records one of the largest decreases of all in this category. Typically, these incidents involve "blue collar embezzlement" in which store clerks—often juveniles—take the day's deposits or a selection of merchandise. Galleria and Harvard Square stores are affected most.

"Con" Games: We had 12 swindles, con games or flim flams in the first six months of 2002, compared to 15 in 2000. The **"Big Carrot Scam,"** which had surfaced in 1999, occurred two times during the first half of 2002. Unfortunately, no arrests were made as a result of these scams. The first incident involved a suspect posing as an employee of Sears, claiming they could produce overstocked laptop computers at a low cost. The victim met the suspect near the Galleria, gave him \$1700 and then never saw him again. The second incident involved a similar scenario involving the sale of golf clubs. The victim of this con lost \$900. Two of the **"Pigeon Drop"** scams involved suspects calling victims and telling them that they had one a million dollars. The suspects stated that they would bring over the check and give it to them as long as they paid the taxes they owed on the money. In both cases the suspects asked for the victim's credit card number.

525 in 2001 · 501 in 2002
4% Decrease

Malicious Destruction

Vandalism, or malicious destruction of property, includes tire-slashing, window-smashing, spray-painting, and myriad other crimes in which someone's property is willfully and maliciously damaged. It is the most commonly reported crime in Cambridge, yet we suspect that vandalism is one of the most underreported crimes; residents and businesses frequently ignore "minor" incidents of vandalism and graffiti.

There were some changes in the number of malicious destruction incidents reported in the first six months of 2002, or in the majority of neighborhoods, in comparison to last year's totals that mostly remained the same when compared with the previous year.

Neighborhood	2 nd Q. 2000	2 nd Q. 2001	2 nd Q. 2002
East Cambridge	59	50	67
MIT	5	4	3
Inman/Harrington	38	37	27
Area 4	41	60	60
Cambridgeport	45	58	59
Mid-Cambridge	37	52	64
Riverside	38	47	45
Agassiz	16	11	14
Peabody	34	55	55
West Cambridge	29	61	30
North Cambridge	61	68	58
Cambridge Highlands	6	6	12
Strawberry Hill	10	16	7

Type of Destruction	2 nd Q. 2000	2 nd Q. 2001	2 nd Q. 2002
Attempted Theft	0	13	33
Business Window	30	30	19
Business (other)	21	27	21
Car Window	86	92	104
Car (other)	109	91	113
Graffiti	45	122	71
House Window	19	22	12
House (other)	27	30	29
Pinstriping	27	39	36
Revenge	2	3	4
Shop Damage	0	0	1
Tire Slashing	46	52	55
Miscellaneous	0	4	3

Due to a trend of graffiti in certain neighborhoods over the past year or so, some of the neighborhoods reported an increase – some slight, some dramatic – while others reported decreases – both slight and dramatic. The second quarter of 2002 reported a decrease in graffiti, by 42%, dropping from 122 incidents during this time frame in 2001 to 71 episodes in 2002.

- In regards to the 71 incidents reported over the past six months, spatial analysis reveals that one neighborhood did host the majority of activity, as was evident last year. Harvard Square's numbers were higher than usual last year, partly due to a spree of acid paintings on business windows during the middle of May.
- In various locations all over Cambridge, many city walls, street, etc., have been spray painted with 'tags' (graffiti-like symbols/letters/language

identifiable by a certain group of individuals – usually the 'taggers' themselves). Residential homes, apartment buildings, and motor vehicles have also fallen victim to this crime.

- Central Square encountered the highest number of incidents during the first half of 2002 with fifteen. Starbucks, located at 655 Mass Ave., was the only commercial establishment in this area that was hit more than once. In both incidents, the unknown culprits tagged the exterior of the business' glass windows with spray paint.

39 in 2001 · 48 in 2002
23% Increase

Sex Offenses

The term "sex offenses" refers to six offenses of a sexual nature, not including rape, which is a Part I crime

Prostitution and Solicitation

Crime	2 nd Q. 2001	2 nd Q. 2002
Prostitution & Solicitation	0	5
Indecent Assault	7	11
Indecent Exposure	14	8
Peeping & Spying	4	8
Annoying & Accosting	7	6
Obscene Phone Calls	7	10

Prostitution is most commonly associated with “streetwalking”—that is, prostitutes working the street corners looking for clients to pick them up in cars. This type of prostitution has long been considered a sign of urban decay and social disorganization. Consequently, the Cambridge Police Department’s Special Investigations Unit has aggressively targeted both “streetwalkers” and “johns” over the past decade with seasonal stings. Their efforts have nearly eradicated the presence of visible streetwalking

in the city of Cambridge. Following complaints about a possible prostitution ring in the Central Square area, the Special Investigations Unit set up a sting operation in June to cease the business. Based out of New York City, the business set up a brothel in Cambridge, advertising on the internet. As a result of the sting, two females, from Florida and Canada were arrested for prostitution.

Indecent Assault

Indecent assault involves the unwanted touching of one person by another in a private area or with sexual overtones. Incidents that show that the offender attempted or intended to rape the victim are counted as rapes, not as indecent assaults. Predominately a crime in which the victim and offender know each other, only 3 of the incidents were acquaintance related.

Indecent assault is categorized in a manner similar to rape. In the first half of 2002, incidents broke into the following categorizations:

- 3 **acquaintance** assaults were reported this first half including, a student who reported an assault by her teacher and a female victim who awoke to an acquaintance in her bed assaulting her in a sexual manner.
- 5 **“blitz”** assaults, in which the victim was suddenly grabbed by a stranger, usually while walking in a public place. Two of the blitz assaults occurred in the Central Square and two resulted in arrests.

Indecent Exposure

Indecent exposure crimes generally fall into three classifications: “flashers,” who deliberately expose themselves to unsuspecting passers-by; homeless or “street” people who urinate in public places (many of the “flashers” are homeless as well); and people who simply show no discretion in front of an open window or while sunbathing. When arrested, flashers are often intoxicated, under the influence of narcotics, or mentally disturbed. No patterns have been established, however it is important to note in five of the eight offenses, the male suspects were seen masturbating by passersby. In two incidents, the suspects called out to the victims in order to gain their attention. There were two arrests in these offenses.

Peeping & Spying

Peeping and spying offenders peer through the windows of houses or apartments, generally at night. Of the eight offenses, seven occurred after 10:00 pm into the early morning hours while all suspects were seen peeping in the window. In one incident, the male suspect was seen masturbating as well. There were incidents resulting in arrests in the first half of men from Vermont and Dorchester.

Annoying & Accosting

“Annoying and Accosting a Member of the Opposite Sex” is a form of criminal harassment. Generally, it involves a man repeatedly following, shouting, making off-color suggestions, hooting, repeatedly asking for a date, or otherwise harassing a woman. It happens most often on the street and in the workplace. Each report involves an individual situation; the crime is not subject to geographic patterns. The six incidents of obscene telephone calls reported during the first half of 2002 do not show any patterns or trends; however, it is suspected that this crime has a high underreporting factor.

25 in 2001 · 25 in 2001
33% Increase

Other Part II Crimes

Under the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, any actual crime not recorded as a Part I Crime is a Part II Crime. The relative infrequency of patterns and trends among these crimes discourages detailed analysis.

Crime	2 nd Q. 2001	2 nd Q. 2002
Disorderly Conduct	28	18
Drinking in Public	9	13
Annoying Phone Calls	86	107
Hit & Run Accidents	409	372
Kidnapping & Attempt. Kidnapping	1	5
Liquor Sale/ Possession Crimes	2	2
Operating Under the Influence	24	23
Threats to Commit a Crime	208	179
Traffic Arrests	78	
Trespassing	30	22
Weapons Violations	3	3
Extortion/Blackmail	2	1

- All but one incident involving **disorderly conduct** resulted in an arrest. Four of these arrests took place just outside restaurants/bars on the 1200 block of Mass Ave., most of which resulted from excessive drinking. The majority of the incidents took place on weekend nights, in Central Square (17%) and Harvard Square (44%).
- Due to the high foot traffic and areas to lounge in, the Squares within Cambridge see the most amount of **public drinking**. Three Squares saw the most activity – Central (38%), Harvard (31%) and Porter (23%). The total number of arrests increased by four apprehensions, partly due to the increased enforcement of public drinking statutes. In response to complaints by Central Square residents and business owners,

enforcement continued throughout 2001 and the first half of 2002, leading to nearly a 50% drop in activity from 2000's Second Quarter.

- **Hit and run accidents** are often among the most commonly reported crimes in Cambridge. Of those reported within the first half of 2002, 4% involved injury to pedestrians, 21% involved damage to moving cars, 74% to parked cars, and 1% to other property. These percentages have been quite consistent over the past three years, where any possible fluctuation has not increased or decreased more than five percent.
- **Kidnapping** is one of the most chilling crimes, and a very infrequent one. Although the first half of 2002 reported five kidnappings, only one used force/threat when a firearm was shown, and the victim was forced to enter the car. Fortunately, the victim was able to get out of the car and run home. In most of the situations, the kidnappings are classified as domestic nature, as was the case in three of the five reported incidents, while the remaining incident involved a known suspect.
- Two arrests were made for **weapons violations** during the first six months of 2002 – one in Area 4, and the other in Riverside. The remaining incident, although there was no arrest, took place in the MIT neighborhood when a bomb threat was received at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Memorial Drive. No one was hurt in any of these three situations.